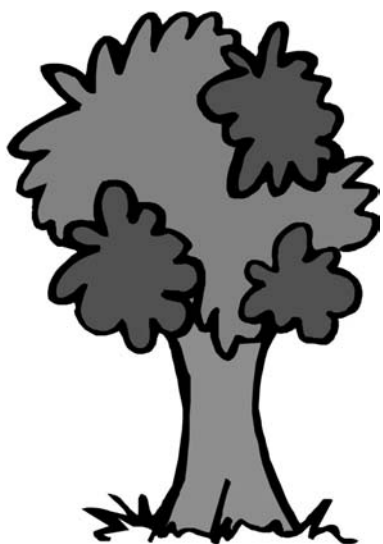


# SCIENCE EXPLORATIONS

Here are some common science topics that raise some very interesting questions. Also included are ways to engage or immerse students in the topics and some suggestions for follow-up experiments that you can do with your class while you are researching the topic.



## Trees

To immerse students in the topic:

- Adopt a tree on the playground and collect leaves, take bark rubbings, and measure around the trunk
- Bring in leaves from different trees and have students try to identify trees they came from
- Take a nature walk and collect different tree parts
- Look at the seeds inside different fruits from trees



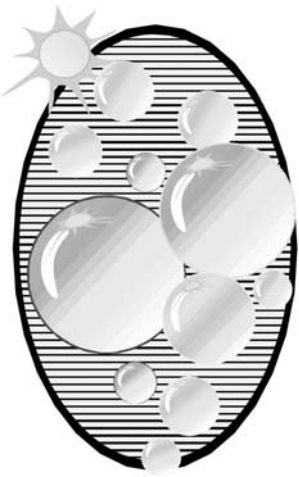
### Experiments to try while researching

- Comparing Leaves  
<http://www.abcteach.com/trees/comparleaves.htm>
- My Leaf Book  
<http://www.littlegiraffes.com/leafbook.doc.dot>
- Adopt a Tree  
<http://www.treetures.com/FunActivities/AdoptTree.pdf>
- Take a Closer Look  
<http://www.eduplace.com/activity/pdf/tree2.pdf>



### Websites to help with research

- Why Do Leaves Change Color in the Fall?  
<http://www.sciencemadesimple.com/leaves.html>
- Exploring the Secret Life of Trees  
<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/trees2/>
- The Wonderful World of Trees  
<http://www.domtar.com/arbore/english/start.htm>
- Autumn Leaf Scrapbook  
<http://mbgnet.mobot.org/sets/temp/leaves/index.htm>
- Why Do Leaves Change Colors?  
<http://virtual.clemson.edu/groups/FieldOps/Cgs/leaves.htm>
- Getting to Know Trees: Kindergarten  
[http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/education\\_safety/education/arbormonth/teachersguide\\_kindergarten.pdf](http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/education_safety/education/arbormonth/teachersguide_kindergarten.pdf)
- What Tree Is It?  
<http://www.oplin.org/tree/>
- Parts of a Tree  
<http://www.talkabouttrees.org/acts/p44.html>



## Bubbles

To immerse students in the topic, blow bubbles with wands of many different shapes and sizes.



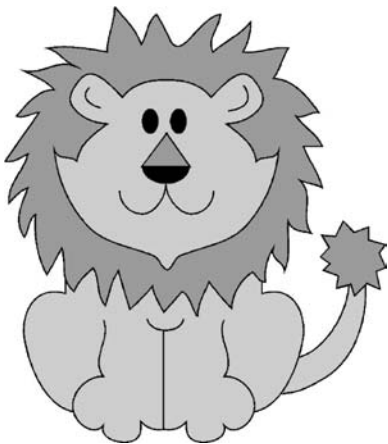
### Experiments to try while researching

- Bubble Tray: Create Giant Bubbles  
[http://www.exploratorium.edu/snacks/bubble\\_tray.html](http://www.exploratorium.edu/snacks/bubble_tray.html)
- Soap Bubbles: Create Geometric Art with Soap Films  
[http://www.exploratorium.edu/snacks/soap\\_bubbles.html](http://www.exploratorium.edu/snacks/soap_bubbles.html)



### Website to help with research

- Bubbles  
<http://www.exploratorium.edu/ronh/bubbles/bubbles.html>



## Animals

To immerse students in the topic:

- Take a field trip to a pet store or zoo
- Have students bring in their pets for a show and tell
- Invite an animal expert into the classroom
- Observe animals in their natural habitats



### Experiments to try while researching

- Animal Diversity  
<http://www.sciencenetlinks.com/lessons.cfm?DocID=395>
- Field Notes: How to Report Your Animal Sightings  
<http://www.learner.org/cgi-bin/jnorth/jn-sightings>



### Websites to help with research

- How Do Animals Spend the Winter?  
<http://www.sciencemadesimple.com/animals.html>
- Where Am I Hiding?  
<http://www.sunshine.co.nz/nz/kia/coolstore/v2/17/ActionStation/animal.html>



## Weather

To immerse students in the topic:

- Observe the weather at the same time each day for a week
- Have students bring in the weather section from the newspaper
- Invite a meteorologist to the classroom



## Experiments to try while researching

- Vortex  
<http://www.exploratorium.edu/snacks/vortex.html>
- Web Weather for Kids  
<http://eo.ucar.edu/webweather/>
- Wind Mapping with Bubbles  
[http://www.tryscience.org/experiments/experiments\\_windbubbles\\_athome.html](http://www.tryscience.org/experiments/experiments_windbubbles_athome.html)
- Weather Experiments  
<http://www.weatherwizkids.com/WxExperiments.htm>



## Websites to help with research

- Miami Museum of Science: How Does a Hurricane Work?  
<http://www.miamisci.org/hurricane/insideahurricane.html>
- The Weather Dude  
<http://www.wxdude.com/>